

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. According to the Soviet-licensed press in Berlin it would appear that the Praesidium of the Volksrat held a meeting on 8 October, at which it drew up the manifesto on the Berlin question which was published on 9 October. This manifesto, **blaming** the Western powers for the present situation, purports to be signed "in the name of the German people" by the presidents of the Volksrat, Wilhelm Pieck (SED), Otto Nuschke (CDU), and Dr. Hermann Kastner (LDP). Well placed sources deny that there was any such meeting at all, either of the whole Praesidium or of the three presidents. Nuschke and Kastner had had nothing to do with the drawing up of the manifesto, and had not signed it. Kastner, in fact, was vacationing at the time, at a spa in Saxony. Nuschke was informed of the existence of the manifesto after it had been presented to the CDU paper Neue Zeit at 11 P. M. on 8 October for publication on the following day; at this time the text of the document was in its final form, with Nuschke's name attached as a signer. Nuschke questioned Pieck on the point, and was told that in view of the political situation the matter was so urgent that there had been no time to consult him.

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2. Up to almost the middle of October, the SMA requested postponement of the Volksrat meeting until after a decision on the Berlin question had been reached in the Security Council of the United Nations. Then, reversing themselves, the Russians authorized the holding of the session from 22 to 24 October. At the same time they insisted on the addition of one further subject to the discussions, namely a denunciation of the "separation of South Schleswig from Germany,

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23 October, Nuschke was suddenly ordered to eliminate from his speech (scheduled for that day) all the references to the Schleswig question.

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(~~Comment~~: The local elections in Schleswig-Holstein were held on the following day. Source thinks that the British attitude, evidenced in negotiations with Denmark, had destroyed the usefulness of the Schleswig question for propaganda purposes.)


3. Nuschke's speech was further censored by the elimination of a passage referring to the Oder-Neisse line, in which Nuschke had described the surrender of the eastern territories as "a renunciation for the sake of Europe as a whole, to be contrasted with the precarious but steadily advancing enslavement of German territory in the West by western financial powers".
4. Paragraph 2 of the resolution adopted on 24 October concerning the Deutsche Wirtschaftskommission was inserted at the insistence of Professor Hugo Hickmann and other CDU leaders. In this connection it may be noted that about one third of the CDU members of the Volksrat absented themselves from the session. The speeches from the CDU side were delivered by those members who have distinguished themselves by their pro-Russian attitude, such as Georg Dertinger, Hans Paul Ganter-Gilmans, and Wilhelm Bachem.
5. The next meeting of the "People's Congress" is to be held late in November or early in December; new elections for delegates are not expected to be held. The date has not been set, but will be determined with reference to the state of international politics, since the Russians hope to be able to use the meeting for a grandiose propaganda gesture. The Congress will ratify the constitution prepared by Grotewohl's committee, and will then request the recognition of German sovereignty and the withdrawal of the occupying troops. The Russians have already approved these requests in principle, but expect them to be refused by the Western powers. Volksrat circles believe that the existing régime in the Soviet Zone is so well established, through the liquidation of its opponents and the support of the police forces, that it can maintain itself even after the Russian troops are withdrawn. It is hoped that the troop withdrawal will add enough to the German government's prestige to enable it to extend its authority over the rest of Germany.
6. During 1949 it is planned to set up a "Commission for External Affairs" under the Volksrat, as a successor organization to the German Foreign Office. Either Nuschke or Dertinger is likely to be the chairman of this Commission, and Dr. Leo Zuckermann would be a Secretary of State under the chairman. Other persons under consideration for posts with the Commission are the following:

Bernhard von Mutius, now secretary to the Secretariat of the Volksrat


fnu Wloch, originally a laborer, then a trade union functionary and editor of Rote Fahne; in a concentration camp 1933-39, then escaped to Poland. Under consideration for ambassador to Poland.

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fnu Uhde (husband of the novelist)

Bruno Heilig, now on the editorial staff of
Deutschlands Stimme

7. A control commission has been created within the Volksrat, with three members who have power to inspect all records, files, and documents in the Volksrat offices.